



The Fort Worth Aviator

June 2014

ALLIANCE AIRPORT CELEBRATES 25th ANNIVERSARY

Then & Now - 25 Years Later

A phrase made famous by Kevin Costner in the movie *Field of Dreams*, "if you build it, they will come." The Alliance project did just that. Before the dream of the Alliance runway was realized, the 9,600 acres of prairie land was just a real estate investment by Ross Perot, Jr. which later grew and transformed into a bustling center for logistics and industrial companies, e-commerce, corporate campuses, as well as residential communities and retail centers. December 14, 2014 will mark the 25th Anniversary of the opening of the Fort Worth Alliance Airport, launching what is now AllianceTexas.



In 1964, a study for the City of Fort Worth predicted the need for a new airport on the northwest side of Dallas Fort Worth to alleviate anticipated congestion at existing air facilities. By 1985, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) began seeking a location for this relief facility. Due to the large acreage required to construct such a facility, the FAA looked to private landholders, and the search eventually led to Ross Perot, Jr. who had purchased as a long term investment, parcels of land that straddled the Fort Worth and Denton county line.

With the encouragement of the FAA and Fort Worth city leaders, Perot built the world's first industrial airport. The name Alliance is a tribute to one of this country's most successful public-private partnerships, a collaboration between the City of Fort Worth, the Federal Aviation Administration and Hillwood Development Company.



Hillwood broke ground on Alliance Airport in July 1988 and Fort Worth Alliance Airport opened on December 14, 1989.

The Importance of Standards



Bill Welstead, Aviation Director

I'd like to express my appreciation for all of the time and effort our customers and internal staff put into the new Minimum Standards. We sought clear guidance and input from the community over the past two years and feel this guiding document is a reasonable balance of flexibility and minimum expectations. There were over a thousand pages of comments and revisions over this "review" period. It was obvious and exciting that our citizens consider these airports, and how we manage them, such an important part of their business and personal lives.

When a primary policy document sits idle for almost two decades it becomes a challenge to refine due to the many changes that occurred over that time. Aaron Barth, the Spinks Airport Manager did a great job of keeping this project moving forward and I expect we'll see this policy document on the Council agenda in July.

As this Airport System continues to evolve and grow we'll likely revisit the Minimum Standards, but for now, we're looking forward to the next challenge, the next project, and we have many of them. Thank you again for all of the work.

Spinks Airport



Aaron Barth, Airport Manager

Article by Will Hickman, Spinks Operations Officer

Imagine you are out flying on a cool fall day, you are just about to rotate for takeoff, and you hear this from the control tower: "N12T, ABORT! UNIDENTIFIED VEHICLE ON 35L!"

This obviously is not a situation that any pilot wants to be in. How do these things happen? How could a vehicle illegally get access to an active runway so easily? Well, unfortunately these types of situations can and do happen at airports all across the country. A lot of times this scenario occurs because drivers are lost or confused. Most often, the driver of the vehicle has no clue that he or she is even on an active taxiway or runway. How can we stop or prevent this from happening at our airport?

In addition to educating and escorting unfamiliar drivers, the integration of new age security access systems is vital to the safety of today's airport system. As many of you have noticed, the keypads at the access gates look a little different these days. This is because they are part of a new wireless system that will ensure more safety and security for our tenants at Spinks. The previous keypad system at Spinks had a few drawbacks. If an intruder got access to the airport because he/she was given a PIN code, there was no way to know who that person was associated with. Furthermore, the system did not have the technology to block that person from using that PIN code again. The new security access system at Spinks Airport incorporates new features and state of the art technology that utilizes advanced Bosch card readers and HD video cameras. The system can be programmed for tenants or businesses to have their own personal codes for access to the gates. These codes could be changed at a moment's notice if a breach in security ever were to occur.

The other improvement to the security system is the camera system. The problem with the previous cameras was that you could not read license plates. The camera resolution was just not high enough. If an unauthorized activity were to occur at Spinks, the new HD cameras will enable us to see a license plate clearly and distinctly.

If you ever have any questions, feel free to call the Spinks Airport Admin office at 817-392-5430.

Keep the greasy side down!

Meacham International Airport



Jeff Kloska, Airport Manager

In the next few months you will see the department begin the process of preparing for the Renovation of the Meacham Administration Building. The City's offices as well as all other tenants in the building will be relocated to temporary trailers located off Main Street at the east end of Runway 9/27. We expect to begin moving the City's offices in August with the tenants to follow in September. Construction of the Renovation is expected to begin sometime in November and wrap up in the fall of 2015. When the design is finalized this month, final renderings and finish out plans for the facility will be displayed at our offices.



Airport staff is in negotiations with the Customs and Border Protection Agency to have Meacham become a Customs User Fee Airport. This will mean aircraft will have the ability to clear customs at Meacham on a 24/7 basis and won't have to go to other airports to clear prior to arriving at Meacham on weekends or afterhours. The facility will be constructed as part of the Administration Building Renovation.

OTHER NEWS

Meacham Airport's based aircraft list has grown to over 370 based aircraft. Our Operations and Fuel Flowage have also continued to see steady growth over the last couple years and new development occurring at the airport is bringing even more based tenants.



The Airport recently took delivery of a Runway Deicer unit. The unit is a trailer mounted tank with boom sprayer nozzles that can cover a 45ft width in a single pass. We will be able to pre-treat the major runway and taxiways which will prevent and or decrease the severe impact of the ice-storms that can shut down an airport.

We have completed our first vehicle gate upgrade for the airport at Gate 34. It utilizes the VMAG operator which can open and close the new steel ornamental gate quickly and efficiently to enhance safety and security of the tenant facilities and the Air Operations Area. As funds become available we will proceed with upgrading additional vehicle gates to this system.

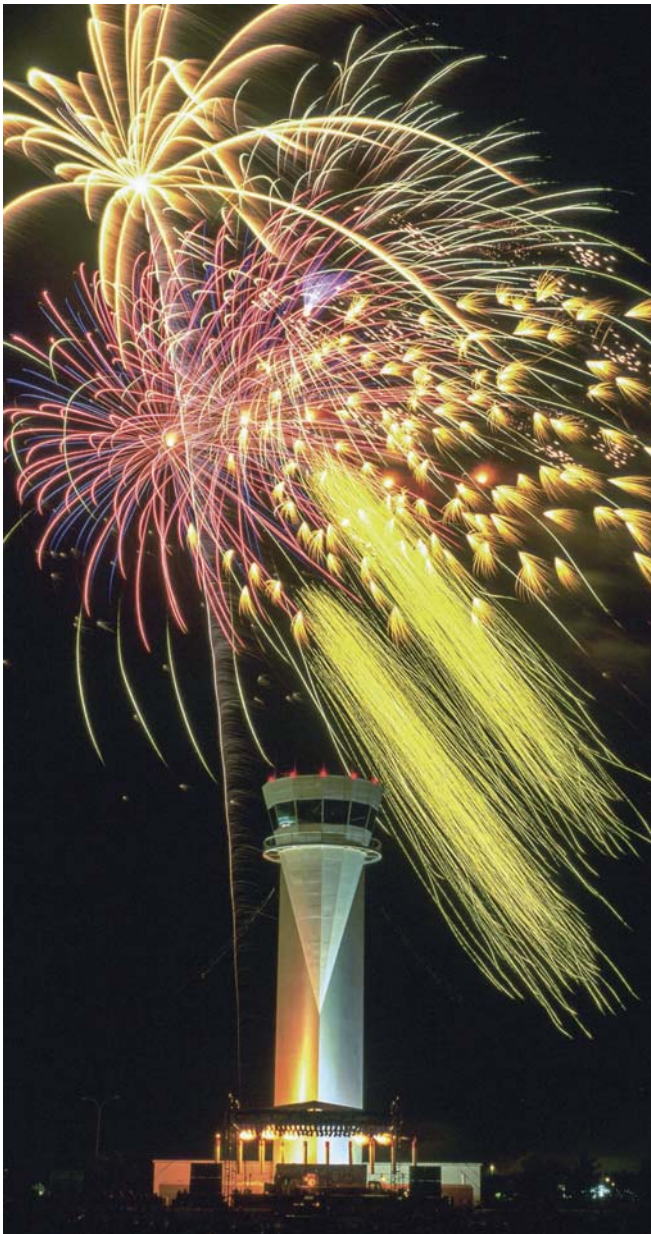
CONGRATULATIONS to.....

The Meacham Air Traffic Control Tower for being named one of the Top 10 Control Towers in the Country.

Texas Jet for being named one of the Top 5 FBO's in the U.S. by FlightPlan.com

Allison Prigel for being named one of the Top 40 Under 40 by the Fort Worth Business Press

Calendar of Events



A celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Alliance Airport is set to take place at Bob Bolen Plaza in front of the Alliance Control Tower on Friday, June 13, from 5:00 to 9:00 pm.

- Live Music featuring “The Scott Hall Band” and “Limelight”
- Fireworks
- Free Kid Zone
- Family Friendly Event
- Bring your cooler and lawn chair
*Please, no glass containers
- Food available for purchase from AllianceTexas restaurants

Join us for an evening of free fun on the lawn, bring your kids, cooler, lawn chair and dancing shoes to help us celebrate our anniversary as we say thanks to our AllianceTexas customers!

*Please bring a canned good or dry food product to benefit the Tarrant Area Food Bank. A truck will be onsite accepting our donations.

The Fort Worth Aviator is published twice a year. If you have an event you would like included in our newsletter, please send your information to aviationwebmail@fortworthtexas.gov. The deadline for the January newsletter is December 31, 2014.

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